SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1895.

Subscription by Mail Post-Paid, DAILY, Per Month....... DAILY, Per Year DAILY, Per Year
BUNDAY, Per Year
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year AILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month ... Postage to Foreign Counteles added,
THE SUN, New York city.

Local News.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the United Pures and New York Associated Farss is at 21 to 29 Ann street. All information and documents for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

Is It Worth the Awful Expenditure?

The outrages on Christian missionaries committed by the Chinese have provoked a discussion as to the wisdom of undertaking to convert those stiff-necked people at the expense of so much danger to the devoted men and women sent to China by the missionary societies. It begins to be questioned, even among the stoutest advocates of Christian missions themselves, if the past and possible results of the attempts to evangelize China justify their enormous cost in life, in suffering, and in money.

The most striking contribution to this discussion is furnished by the Rev. Mr. DONEHOO, a Presbyterian paster of Pittsburgh. In a letter to the Tribune he sub stantially answers that question in the negative, although, of course, he is earnestly in favor of Christian missions generally. Mr. DONEHOO explains that he has never been in Chins, and therefore has had no opportunity for personal observation of the fruits of missionary efforts there; but he has had long and large experience as a missionary among the Chinamen here, and as he has also distinguished himself as their defender against unjust prejudice and consequent ill treatment, he is a witness whose testimony regarding them and their characteristics has special value. As the result of this experience, says Mr. DONEHOO, "I have never yet found one who gave evidence of thorough conversion to Christianity, though I have known a large number who have been in our Sabbath schools and a faw who have professed conversion." The infer ence from this statement is that, if the evangelization of the Chinamen is so hopeles here, where they are surrounded by the influences of Christian civilization, it must be still more hopeless in China itself: but Mr. DONEHOO does not go so far as to draw it. He simply says that he has sense enough to form his own conclusions " as to the results of the missionary efforts put forth for their conversion." What those conclusions must be is obvious.

Moreover, his observations among the Chinamen who have immigrated to this country coincide with the reports sent and brough by many of our navy officers and by American and European merchants and other rep resentatives who have visited China and lived among the people. They all bear witness to the devotion of the Christian mismionaries there, but they express the opinion that the self-sacrifice is almost wholly wasted, so far as the Chinamen are con cerned. Like Mr. DONEROO, they question the genuineness of the conversions of which the missionaries are so hopeful, saying that they are almost invariably due to the interested motives which have gained for the supposititious converts the title of "rice converts" in China, or people who have professed Christianity for the sake of the loaves and fishes distributed among them by the missionaries. The only fruits of missionary effort which seem to these observers genuine and valuable are the education provided for the young and the medical attendance and instruction furnished, yet it is these more especially which have been used by Chinese malignity against foreigners to excite the fury of the native mobs, with the consequent destruction of the lives of missionaries and the property of the missions. Instead of being attracted to Christianity, the Chinese people, as the late atrocities indicate, are now more than ever incensed against it. It is hateful to them, both in itself and because it is a religion which they regard as foreign. The efforts of the missionaries to educate children and to heal the sick are perverted by their imaginations into devices to corrupt and even to torture and destroy them with savage fiendishness.

The inference from Mr. DONEHOO'S re marks and their confirmation by American and European visitors to China is that the enormous self-sacrifice which the insignificant results of missionary effort cost can be expended elsewhere with far greater practical returns. It is that, in their humanity, zealous and devoted men and women ought not to be stimulated to risk their lives in vain attempts to convert to Christianity a people whose evangeliza tion has been proved in actual experience to be impossible.

Even in religious enterprises, it is well to ask if the game is worth the candle.

Pretentious Ignorance on Exhibition Two years ago the small "leisure class" of individuals, calling themselves and call ing each other municipal reformers, organized "The American Society of Municipal Improvements" having members in every large city of the country. A so-called national convention of this society is to be held in Cincinnati on Sept. 11, 12, and 13. Invitations have been issued broadcast and Chairman HERRMANN and Secretary BUTTERFIELD of the organization promise in their bulletin to members that they will spare no pains in making the stay of the delegates both profitable and pleasant'

while they are in Cincinnati. These municipal reformers, who claim to have devoted their time and efforts to a profound study for complete mastery of all serious municipal problems, aver that the great majority of American voters in the large cities fall short of comprehending the questions involved in the abstruse science of "municipal government," so called. It might reasonably be supposed, therefore that the officials of the American Society of Municipal Improvements, as one of the results of their researches, would have, at least, some smattering, superficial knowledge of the elementary divisions of public departments in the populous, thriving, and world-famous town of New York, the chief among American cities.

But it is not so. The invitation of the American Society for Municipal Improve ments under date of Aug. 17 to the legislative branch of our city government is addressed to the " Board of Council." There is no such Board in this town. The fame of the New York city Board of Aldermen has apparently failed to reach Municipal Improvers in Cincinnati.

In the same communication the municipal reformers say that they have sent of their invitations " five copies to your city."

to the Board of Council, whatever that may be, and one to the "Board of Public Works." There is no such Board here.

The letter of invitation is accompanied by request for a representation by delegates in Cincinnati on Sept. 11 of the following local New York departments: "The Water Works," the "Civil Engineering Department," the "Infirmary Department," the 'Purchasing Department," and the "Department of Public Construction."

As may be seen by these announcements, the American Society of Municipal Improvements, in its profound study of the affairs of municipalities, has not, as yet, acertained even the names of the chief public departments of this city, although at an expenditure of five cents it could procure from the City Record an exact statement in detail, as provided by law, not only of all the public departments, but of salaries and offices of the incumbents of such departments. If the letters sent to New York are typical of the letters sent by the Society of Municipal Improvements to other American cities, it is making a large mount of business for the Dead Letter Office in Washington.

The plain fact of the matter is that the o-called non-partisan municipal reformers act in complete ignorance and childish disregard of the existing conditions in the government of American cities. A few individuals of no political account whatever, without influence and without accurate or iseful knowledge, form a "Reform Club," where they are protected from the possibility of contact with intelligent politicians who could instruct them in the rudiments of popular government in the United States. Lord DUNDREARY declared that he might one day become a fisherman, as he knew as little about fish as anything else. Similarly, the miscellaneous reformers seem to have taken up the question of municipalities be cause they know as little about them as they do about anything else. As their preliminary invitations indicate, the measurements of their ignorance will be publicly exhibited at Cincinnati in September.

Mr. Morton Declines.

The Hon. JULIUS STERLING MORTON has made himself liked in Virginia by his warm recommendation of the State as a farming community. He has pointed out that it is not necessary to go West for a farm when good land can be bought cheap at no great distance from Washington. He has returned to the subject with evident predilection, and there has even been a report that he intends to settle in Virginia at the end of his job in the Department of Agriculture and grow up with the country, finding, or hoping to find, there the way to political office which seems blocked against him in Nebraska. He is a very decent sort of farmer and a very active letter writer, and a tariff for revenue only man of long standing; and he will be liable to make matters interesting wherever he settles.

The Secretary went to the exercises at the Manassas Farmers' Institute last week and lauded the Virginia farmers so copiously that some of the audience were moved into nominating him for President. "Virginia feels deeply grateful to you, Mr. Secretary," Congressman MEREDITH, "and she may find a way, through her delegation, of expressing her gratitude in the next National The Secretary shook a dep-Convention." recating head and, smiling, put the nomination by

Another Virginian came to the assault 'I have no sort of doubt," said he, "that the next delegation from Virginia will vote for Mr. MORTON for President." The Secrectary stood firm. Hear his refusal of the kingly crown:

"I am free to say, gentlemen, that, while I appre-riate the compliment you pay me, when I get through with my present office I am entirely and completely lone. I shall never hold another. As for the Pres lency, it will probably, as a nomination in the perhaps OLERY; possibly somebody else of the East."

Still, the Virginians were not satisfied. They said that the nomination must westward take its way; and who else so fit for it as Mr. MORTON? But the enemy of free Government seed continued unmoved.
"Gentlemen," he repeated, "I am holding the last office I shall ever hold."

These declinations in advance don't have all the authority of Holy Writ. They are easily revocable. Yet it is to Mr. MORTON's credit that he doesn't imitate his chief. Nobody hears Mr. CLEVELAND suggesting WHITNEY OF OLNEY Or saying that this is the last office he shall ever hold.

Old Age Homes in Vienna.

The regulations made by law in Germany for the support of superannuated workingmen, and those contemplated for England by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, have directed at tention to the measures taken for the same purpose in other countries. Especially note worthy is the plan followed in Vienna, an account of which is given by Miss EDITH SKLLERS in the current number of the Nineteenth Century. It appears that more than a century ago

the Emperor Joseph II., who in so many ways was in advance of his countrymen, propounded the doctrine that a man who as worked in the days of his strength has the right to be supported by his fellows when old age comes upon him. He enacted that any destitute person might, at the age of sixty, claim from his commune either free board and lodging, or a pension equal to one-third of his previous average yearly earnings. On this statute are founded the present Poor law regulations of Vienna, so ar as they relate to the treatment of the aged. All persons who have a right of settlement in the Austrian capital, that is, about 36 per cent. of the inhabitants, may on and after their sixtieth birthday claim either a pension or admission to an old age home, provided, of course, they cannot support themselves and have no relatives who are bound by law to support them. As, however, there is room in these homes for only some 4,600 persons, and there are usually more than four times that number who wish to live in them instead of accepting pensions, the Poor law authorities are clothed with some discretionary power in leciding who shall be admitted. The result is that the great majority of the inmates are persons of good character, whose destitution is due to misfortune. Partly on this account, and partly owing to the treatment received, no disgrace attaches to residence in an old age home. An Austrian would o more think of being ashamed because his father was in such an institution than would an Englishman because a relative of his had rooms in Hampton Court.

Of the six old age homes belonging to Vienna, only two are in the city itself; the others are at some little distance away in the outskirts. They are all in healthy localities and are fine large buildings with gardens. By way of example may be taken the great yellow building in the Spitalgasse, about a mile from the Ring. The house, which is described as a model of cleanliness

yard, and on the side furthest from the street abuts on one of the most beautiful gardens in Vienna. To the passer by the house appears to be a popular resort, and on fine afternoons the garden is quite crowded. Not, however, that the place stands open to all the world; only the relatives and friends of those who live there are admitted. But, whether or no they ever cross its threshold, the poor of Vienna all look upon this building as their especial property, and take a personal pride in its well-kept air. With regard to the interior arrangements of the Spitalgame Home we are told that each wing is divided into a number of large, lofty rooms, opening onto a long corridor. In each room there are from ten to twenty comfortable beds equipped with a plenty of warm coverlets. By each bed is a sort of "whatnot" with a cupboard on one side for clothes, and shelves on the other; there are chairs and tables standing about. In summer the bedrooms are gay with flowers. The corridors, which are well warmed in winter and furnished with settees, serve as general sitting rooms. Here, when it is too cold to be out of doors, the old men bring their pines and the women their knitting. There is much talking over the news of the day, for the inmates subscribe for daily papers, one for ach corridor. We should mention that although the corridors are regarded as the common property of the sexes, all the women have their alceping rooms in a wing of the building separated from that allotted to the men.

The commissariat of the Spitalgasse Home is carefully organized on the restaurant principle. The Poor Law Department, instead of providing the inmates with food, allows them to buy it for themselves, and to this end gives each of them 26 kreutzers, or about ten cents a day. The old people are under no obligation to go to the home restaurant, but they rarely fail to do so, for nowhere else can they obtain such good value for their money. From the bill of fare quoted by Miss SELLERS we learn that half a pint of soup, with rice, can be bought for less than a cent; a plate of roast veal, lamb, or pork for four cents; half a pint of potatoes, cabbage, or turnips for less than a cept; half a pint of beer or a glass of old white wine for less than two cents. Within certain limits the inmates of the home can take their meals when they choose; the tables, dishes, and cutlery are scrupulously clean, and there is nothing in the appearance of the restaurant to distinguish it from

one frequented by the lower middle class. The controlling purpose of these old age omes is to assure to the inmates the largest possible measure of independence, and conequently of self-respect. The clothes question is settled in a common sense way. Such of the old people as have clothes of their own, wear them; the others are supplied by the Poor Law Department. In the latter case, however, the dress is not uniform; it is of the kind worn by the artisan class. Pains are taken to avoid the English custom of affixing a bedge of pauperism to the recipients of public help. All the inmates, with the exception of the invalids, are required to keep their clothes in good repair and to pay attention to their personal appearance. The hall porter has orders to allow no one to go out until he has "tidied up;" the regulation is said to have the warm approval of the pensioners themselves, most of whom are described as pictures of neatness. Amazing to English ears is one of the laundry regulations; the inmates are warned that only their bed linen and clothes are vashed gratuitously, not their Putzwäsche, or lace frills and furbelows. We add that many of the old people supplement their 26 kreutzers a day by earning a little money on their own account, and the Poor law authorities provide regularly paid work for such as have the strength or wish to do it. It is true that they only pay 10 kreutzers for six hours' work, but even this sum may be pleasantly expended at the restaurant, Moreover, even in an old age home there is a chance of rising in the world. Such of the old people as prove especially trustof the institution.

We note, finally, that in these Vienns refuges for old age, the discipline is of the mildest. Practically, the inmates may do just as they like, so long as they are orderly. When once they have made their rooms neat, they may lounge about all day long. In each home there is a chapel where mass is celebrated daily, but the old people are free to go there or not. Should they wish, they may leave the home every day at one o'clock, and they need not return until eight in the evening. They have, moreover, the right to spend one whole day with their friends every week, and once a year they may go away for a whole month. Naturally, however, these privileges are conditional upon good behavior, and should any of the pensioners show a disposition to abuse their liberty, it is curtailed. On the whole, one is not surprised to hear that it would be difficult to find a more contented set of old people than those who live in these Vienna homes. Grumblers, no doubt, there are; but that the great majority are happy seems manifest from the fact that the respectable poor, when their working days are over, repair gladly to these institutions. On the other hand, old men and women have been known to die of slow starvation rather than enter an English workhouse.

The Counant Boundary Dispute. The selection of King OSCAR of Sweden as arbiter in the controversy between France

and Brazil marks another important step

toward its peaceful settlement. Hot talk of extending the bounds of French Guiana clear down to the Amazon has been heard in Cayenne, and it is even said that some ... the lads of the French colony had gone into the disputed region, nominally as prospectors for gold, but really in order to hunt down the irregular Brazilian forces, perhaps somewhat as American boys brought up on the dime novel go West

to fight Indians. Taking together Brazil's arrest of TRE-JANE and his force of French constabulary a few months ago, the attempt thereupon of GOV. CHARVEIN of French Guiana to get satisfaction by force, with the gunboat Bengali, the conflict between the opposing forces, and the present excitement both at Cayenne and Mapa, the urgency of the resort to arbitration is clear. Sweden should be an impartial referee, and is apparently an excel-

ent choice. The dispute thus to be settled arose more than two hundred years ago between France and Portugal, to whose rights Brazil succeeded. The French originally wanted to claim everything from Cayenne down to the left bank of the Amazon, but at length agreed to be bounded by a certain stream. In the process of time a dispute arose over the identification of that stream, Portugal declaring that it was the Oyapoey, which enters the ocean at Cape Orange, and France insisting that it was the Araguary, or its north branch. The intervening region

tury ago, agreed to hold neutral. It was a temporizing arrangement, but the region was then considered as of small value, and it had few inhabitants. Perhaps the policy might have proved satisfactory to this day had not M. TAMBA discovered, last winter, deposits of gold in the Carsevenne district, which caused a rush thither, and rendered of much more importance the real ownership of the disputed tract, which is called sometimes Counani, from its chief town,

and sometimes Amapa. If this Counani boundary dispute between French Guiana and Brazil can thus be settled by peaceful arbitration, why, also, should not the Cuyani boundary dispute between British Guisna and Venezuela? Both date back for centuries, and both have become urgent in later days through the discovery and working of gold fields. Should the protocol drawn up by the French and Brazilian representatives at Rio Janeiro be ratified, it will form an object lesson for England, with whom Venezuela desires to arrange a compact of arbitration in their dispute.

Cup Hunter and Cup Keeper. To-morrow the Valkyrie, thoroughly polshed and pot-leaded and straightened o and apparently somewhat fitter than a fiddle, will spread her enormous sails and make her first sprint in American waters. The loosening of a few rivets in her formidable little carcass seems to be about all the harm she suffered from the swattings of the sea. For the next eight days she will practice her paces and experiment with the light breezes she was built to win in.

There is a very general impression that the Valkyrie is likely to prove what is technically known as a "corker." We shall know her tricks in a few days. She has plenty of time to prepare for the races unless some accident should happen to her; and the poor Defender seems at present to monopolize most of the casualties of the winds and muds.

But when the Bristol boat gets her stronger spars on, her misfortunes will end, perhaps, and her glory begin. On Thursday she will have another chance to show what she is made of.

Perhaps a good application of good luck is the principal thing she needs, and here is hoping she may get it!

The Transformation of Lower New York.

The great and increasing value of land in the busy centre of New York is indicated by the price just paid by the Commercial Cable Company for a comparatively small piece of land in Broad street. The plot, which runs through to New street and contains only about 7,600 square feet, was sold for about \$1,250,000, or nearly \$165 per square foot of land. It was bought from a real estate operator, by whom it was purchased on speculation two years ago at a price which was then regarded as hazardously high; but now, within a time so short, he has been able to turn it over to the cable company at a handsome profit.

In order to justify so large an investment for a piece of property of only about the area of three city lots, the purchasing company will erect on the site a building of eighteen stories high at a cost of a million or more. from the rentals of which in that famous financial centre it expects, with reasonable confidence, to get a good interest on the total outlay of about \$2,250,000. It is proceeding on the theory, justified by experience, that the best property, even though it be the highest priced, is that most likely to be profitable as an investment. The cost of such land and of the structure which must be built on it to make the investment desirable is now so great that only corporations with large capital or individuals or estates having great sums of money at their command are able to pay it. During the ecent and continuous rise in the value of all building sites of the best class the heavy transactions in the real estate market have been made almost wholly by such corporations or by combinations of capitalists, and it is they that have put up, or are vet to erect, the lofty business structures which distinguish this period.

The supply of office accommodations afforded by these buildings of from ten to twenty stories in height seemed to be more than sufficient for the demand two or three years ago, but, presumably at least, the continuous erection of more, and the large and numerous projects for such buildings now under way, must be taken as an indication that even now the superior facilities of these great modern structures render investments in them profitable. The present methods of doing business, involving the maintenance here of agencies of all sorts of corporations and manufacturers in all parts of the Union and in foreign countries, have created a largely increased demand for eligible offices in New York, which is most satisfactorily supplied by the new and lofty structures. They also draw off tenants from the older buildings of inferior accommodations. Undoubtedly the great amount of idle capital accum ilated in New York encourages and stimulates this activity of landed property. Having been frightened by the experiences of the long period of depression from enterprises in which it formerly took risks, capital now is seeking the greater security of real estate investments, and even the small rate of interest at present obtainable from them may be better than what it can get with safety elsewhere. Moreover, money can be borrowed on good mortgages for from 4 to

414 per cent. The professional experts of the real estate market and the men who make a business of landed speculations are prophesying and expecting still further advances in the price of the best down-town property during the coming autumn. The destruction of old buildings in the chief business centres and the erection of lofty structures on their sites has only begun, they say. Except where the property is tied up in some way, they are looking forward to an even more general transformation of the kind as necessary to make the land profitable to its owners. The more new buildings that are put up, with superior accommodations, the greater is the difficulty of renting the old, except at concessions which make them an undesirable investment. The increase in the value of the land has made essential the erection of storehouses that shall most fully utilize its space, if the holding of it is to be profitable in current revenue. Hence the real estate experts look for greater temptations for the owners to sell out to combinations of capital prepared to make improvements which they themselves are unable to undertake.

Undoubtedly there still remain great numbers of old-fashioned buildings in the choice situations for business, and, if they are to be replaced by these lofty structures, architects will have a rich harvest in the future. Such a utilization of the comparatively limited area of land in the lower part of the town would have the consequence of keeping there the centre of business and financial activity by supplying accommodations for the increase of a long pe-They have sent one copy to the Mayor, one | and order, is built around a great court- France and Brazil, more than half a cen- riod to come; and hence the erection of so

many of these lofty buildings in that district has tended to put up the price of real

estate throughout its extent. The City Hall, therefore, for many years to come, if not permanently, is likely to be in the centre of the most crowded, the most valuable, and the busiest region of this country.

Why New York should Seek Relief in Breck There is no real occasion for the discussion New York knows only too well why it should seek relief in Brooklyn; that is to say, in Brooklyn or in Hoboken.

The Valkyrie is now as black as the darkest horse that ever entered a race. The Defender is now as purely white as Mr. BAYARD says the Executive Mansion is. Which boat shall be painted red next?

Poor Sporronn! There is a difference be ween keeping a library and keeping books.

There would be something quite Oriental in China's appointment of Liv Ping Chang as High Commissioner to investigate the outrages upon foreign missions, if it be true, as some people assert, that he actually instigated the Cheng-Tu riot. Both Turkey and China, in their proposed investigations, seem to have faith in

A cable despatch from Miss ANNIE S. PECK. formerly professor of Latin in Smith College, to the Boston Herald, recounts in modest

language a considerable exploit: "We reached the summit of the Matterborn to-day in six hours from the hut. There were no mishaps the weather was fine and clear and the view on al sides superb. Nothing was wanting."

She went, she climbed, she conquered. In six bours from the hut the new woman was on top. More than that, she came down gracefully and safely.

The Prince George, which has been launched during the past week at Portsmouth. is one of nine huge battle ships of a common model. The Majestic had already taken to the water at the same port, and the Cesar will follow. The Magnificent was launched this year at Chatham, where also the Hiustrious and the Victorious are building. The Jupiter is under construction on the Clyde, the Mars on the Mersey, the Hannibal at Pembroke. These ves sels are of 14,900 tons displacement or, in round numbers, when complete, may be put at 15,000. They are to have a speed of 16% knots with natural draught, and probably another knot with forced draught, and will carry four 12-inch and twelve rapid-fire 6-inch guns, besides strong auxiliary batteries. It is remarkable with what rapidity they are being hurried into the water. England is making resolute efforts to retain her

BREACH OF PROMISE SUITS.

naval supremacy.

A Stirring Pien for the Unprotested but To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If there is a law upon the books which should be repealed it is that relating to breach of promise. If not repealed, it should be supplemented by others prescribing a legs form of betrothal, the observance of which would b a practical "declaration of intentions," and without which no woman could have a standing in court as claimant for damages. Then, too, there should be a limit fixed for the damage. Five thousand dollars is the extreme sum alloted when a man is killed by a railroad accident, and surely that is enough to serv

As the law now stands, every rich man who takes the least notice of the ten thousand and one fortune hunting young women and their designing mammas. who pursue him and waylay him at all times and in all places, does so at the peril of having one of these disgusting suits, with all its attendant horrors, visited upon him as a reward for perhaps ordinary courte sies. What wonder that the wise ones shun penniles girls, however charming, for fear that the ordinar qualities be loves, and for which he would be willing to make her the partner of his life, shall be construe

No better capital could be given to black mailers than this very law. No decent, self-respecting America. girl needs its so-called "protection." It is a law made for scheming women and unscrupulous lawyers. Every sensible girl knows that if a man of means really intends to make her his wife he will do so at the earliest possible moment, and until that moment arrives it is her duty to herself to regulate her conduct so that she does not suffer injury. Women are neither dolts, idiots, nor infants, and when a me they know as well as he that he does not intend marby a betrothal or by its rupture, but a designing woman can use the law as a whip to extert money or lemand marriage where the bestown of neither is deserved.

If ever there was a law made and enforced in the nterest of sharks, it is this same statute, made and provided to enable worthless women to bleed men of JAMES K. BRISTOL NEW YORK, Aug. 24.

A Woman's Idens on the Uncleasures of International Yacht Baces,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-NIC: The fact that fo nonths past the principal columns of your paper have been filled daily with news of the coming interna-

tional yacht race has set me thinking.

No doubt the Defender, the Vigliant, and the Val-kyrie are very beautiful boats, which excite the adniration of everybody, but of what earthly practical use are they? If to make the Valkyrie sufficiently seaworthy to

eross the Atlantic necessitates an entire change of rigging, what improvement of the old methods do the new fittings demonstrate?

If the coming race and all that it involves has no further significance than more pastime, it is, to say the least, a very expensive postime.

If the coming race and all that it involves has no further significance than more pastime, it is, to say the least, a very expensive postime.

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New York, Aug. 24.

The New England Crase for Vulgar Ab-

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your paper of Aug. 22 you refer editorially to an unpleasant prac-tice which is spreading through New England newspapers in the form of vulgar abbreviations and abbreviations without periods. I have been in New England about eight months and cannot become accustomed to reading the local papers because of this miserable defect. One of the worst offenders in this respect is the Springskid Republican. The distorted abbreviations and poor capitalization of the New England newspapers generally are painful, and their "reformed" apelling is abountable. They didn't make so bad a mess of it, however, when one of them recently mentioned the New York Evening post thus, with a small D.

RESPONDING DESCRIPTION AND AUG. 23. papers in the form of vulgar abbreviations and ab with a small p.
Spatsoristo, Mass., Aug. 28.

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: In a recent issue of your paper you published a letter written by our President to a friend, in which he describes his marrised life as "one-grand awest song."

In reading the book, "A Romance of Two Worlds,"
by Marie Corelli, I find this passage in chapter 8, entitled "A Symphony in the Air":

"But the musician i speak of was like a child in
humility and reverence. Casimir told me he had
never sounded so true a nature. At one time he, ton,
was a little anxious for recognition and praise, and
casimir saw that he was likely to wreck himself on
that fatal rock of poor ambilion. So he took him in
hand and taught him the meaning of his work, and
why it was especially given him to do; and that man's
life became one grand sweet song."

Did Marie Corelli steel this pretty phrase from our
President's letter!

Kew York, Aug. 24. President to a friend, in which he describes his mar

A Girl, and Scotch at That. THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. I notice with sur-e that you appeak of Valkyrie III. as "the English. "Way, the 's sector." Worder.

Cut It Short. From the Hot Springs Thomas Cat. When you've got a thing to say, Bay it! Don't lake half a day.
Bay it! Don't lake half a day.
When your yarn's not sitte in it.
Crowd the whole taing in a minute.
Life is short—a flecting vajor.
Ddn't you fill an right paser paper.
With a tale which, at a pinch.
Could be cornered in its limit.
Boil her down intil she shomers.
Foliah ber until she gilimiers.
Whan you've got a thing to ay. When you've got a thing to say,

An aggravating sore throat is soon relieved by D. Jayne's Expect-rant, an old-time remarks associated and pulsionary affections.—Adu.

A SIGHT TO MAKE ONE CRY.

Bad News from the Corndete TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUR-Sir: The sun has made sad havoc with the crops all over the West for the last ten days. Even Kansas has not been spared, and the corn in the garden spot of Illinois, from Springfield to Galesburg and Decatur, has been sadly burned. Fields which promised prodigious crops two weeks ago will not produce half a crop. Everywhere, for a radius of fifty miles around Galesburg, the chinch bugs fill the air. When they have filled themselves with the growing corn they lie dormant, sometimes half an inch thick, between

the rows of corn. Indiana, from Logansport, on the Wabash botom, on to Indianapolis and to Columbus, O., will produce half a crop. From Columbus to Cininnati, and all over the Little Miami, the stalks are burned to a crisp, and a third of a crop is all there is left. Yesterday a violent hall storm broke out all the exposed windows in Newton and Wichita, Kan., laying the corn flat thrashing the leaves into shreds. It is a sight to make one cry.

The corn estimates of two weeks ago are all off now, With 200,000,000 bushels of corn burned up in eastern Nebraska, from Lincoln to St. Joseph, Mo., and from Lincoln to Omaha, with the sun and hall in southeastern Kansas the sun and chinch bugs in Illinois, and the crop badly burned all over southern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, we will have to reduce our first esti-mate of 2,000,000,000 bushels to 2,000,000,000, with a chance of dropping to 1,800,000,000. This need create no alarm, as 2,000,000,000 bushels is more than an average crop, and is worth at 25 cents a bushel \$500,000,000. Hay will be scarce all over the United States, but the fodder left, after the burning up of 800,000,000 bushels of ears, will be as valuable as hay.

Many fields of burned corn stand eight feet high with no ear.

Many fields of burned corn stands and high with no ear.
You sak how the corn burns?
One day it will look magnificent and promise fifty bushels to the acre. The tassels will stand up proud and straight. Then the dry, hot wind strikes it and burns the tassel to a crisp. It kills the seed which was soon to drop down on the silk and make the corn on the ear. So the ear is a failure. At a distance the field looks all right, but examine it closely and it is mock corn. They call it "Cleveland corn" in Nobraska, "because it promises so much and then fixgles out."

ELI PERRINA.

ON THE TRAIN IN ILLINOIS, Aug. 22. Manhattan Chess Club Troubles Again TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str.: I have not approved of the letter signed "Member of the fanbattan Chess Club," which you published Aug. 4, nor of the letter of "Another Member. printed Aug. 16. I voted for the De Visser res lution at the last quarterly meeting, and have no sympathy whatever with the so-calle

The letters mentioned are provoking so much discussion that many of us hope the directors will not delay taking proper action with regard

Our side, it seems to me, is entitled to some reply to such searching public criticism as your correspondents have chosen to indulge in.

and particularly in view of what is privately being repeated at the club.

Three of the stories there in circulation ought to be disposed of at once.

The first relates to Delmar and the match with the Franklin Chees Club of Philadelphia. It is the Franklin Chess Club of Philadelphia. It is said that Heimar was willing to play for the Manhattan Chess Club, and offered to do so, but that President Bigelow debarred him from playing till he, Delmar, should first make a private apology for some fancied affront. I do not believe our President would risk losing so important a match for so trivial a reason.

The second story is that Lipschutz was available for Skanesteles to protect for our club the Staats-Zeitung cup, then in its possession, but that the directors, for reasons of their own, went past our club's champion and selected the Staten islander, who by all rights should have played for his own club.

This again can hardly be true, as such a step was too risky to be taken if it could have been avoided.

was too risky to be taken if it could have been avoided.

The third story, which must be equally false with the others, is that Lipschutz was willing to represent the Manhattan Chess Club at Hastings, but that the directors declined to vote the paltry sum, only \$250, needed for his expenses; this action being in the face of the well-known intention of the Brooklyn Chess Club to send Pilisbury, who certainly then had not nearly Lipschutz's great reputation, but who, nevertheless, now seems likely to win one of the top prizes. The action of the directors in this respect robbed the club of all chance of the honor it might have obtained at Hastings.

It is not pleasant for loyal members of the club to hear such things said openly, and many of us sincerely hope our directors will put an end to these stories by a prompt denial of them, and will make public the real reasons why our matches did not result better for us.

natches did not result better for us. New York, Aug. 24. MANHATTAN.

The Busy Life of a Kentucky Town. From the Carter County Bugle.

Harvey Pults is hauling blocks. Prayer meeting at Vincent switch every Saturday aight. Everybody invited.

Sam Kouns of Ashland was calling on Miss Hattle Sunday. Mrs. A. D. Wilburn and daughter, Mary J., attended

Messra Walter Underwood and Basil Lambert of Enterprise attended services here Sunday, and report

Quite a number of our young folks attended the rag tacking near Leon Saturday night.

Fred and Snow Powell attended prayer meeting as it. Savage Sunday night.

L. N. Davis, one of Ashland's popular young bustness men, arrived in town Saturday just in time to witness a game of ball between Grayson and Beech Grove, which game was one of constant wranging on ooth sides. Lew was asked to umpire part of th game, but he taking in the situation, declined, saving

ne had no pocket persuader, and, as life was precious, he'd wait till the clouds rolled by, While at Oilve Hill Saturday Uncle Geo. R. Ross told us he was living fine, and had as great a variety of edibles as at any time in his life, which he enu-merated as follows: Dried apples, fried apples, baked apples, stewed apples, roasted apples, apple jelly, ap le jam, apple butter, apple preserves, apple ple, ap nany other ways. Uncle George failed to tell whethe

or not be had had the apple colic. James Gifford attended prayer meeting at Leon Sur

Abe flarr took in the excursion to Ashland Sunday. We are sorry to say that George Astists of near Olive Hill was killed Saturday by Lifting a botler from This town is up and awake. Nearly everybody a

work, some mining, some getting cross-ties, and others attending to farm work.

We saw Coon Moore at Olive Hill Tuesday and be told us he had a reply to the poem published in the Sugle just after the last November election entitled "The Barber Shaved the Coon," and he would send i

We acknowledge the receipt of a season ticket to the Decring camp meeting at Park Hill. Nicholas county, Aug. 15 to 26 inclusive. We are also effected the hospitality of the Hon. G. R. Keller, editor of the Mercury, and am truly sorry we cannot attend, owing

to the pressure of business on band. A young gentleman stepped into a barber shop Mon day, not more than ten niles from this office, and called for a hair cut and asked the barber which chair to sit on while going through the ordest of clipping Next! Wonder if he was taught the difference be tween the many different makes of chairs at the pub ic schools, or did he ever attend a temple of learning ed none so tenorant dwelt a

Three Clowns in the Ring.

From the Commercial Advertis There is a great deal to be said both in favor of fuien or fusion ticket this fall, and a great deal t There is also a great deal to be said in favor of a straight Republican tiezet, and something to be said against it. While the discussion is going on we desire to point to one result of the fu rear. We mean, of course, the election of Jeroloman, famsen, and Hoeber, three of the most remarkable living pictures ever exhibited in any community They have turned their offices into stages for the performance of comic opera. They have made the ad-ministration of law and justice a disgraceful farce. Their continuous performances reported in the news papers daily are doing more than anything else could do to make a Union ticket impossible. Friends of fution should suppress these low comedians at once.

Of Interest to the Hon, & Cleveland, From the East Owner Sun.

Aifred G. Harfield of 1.871 White street has a nightblooming corcus in b onto at his home. The plant is of the dwarf species, standing but 2's feet high. It is called a third-term plant because it has on it three ads that bloom in succession ab at twenty-four hours apart.

Scribner's Magazine for September is an attracenumber. filled with pictures from cover to cover. The descript we articles, thirf among them the key br. Van Dyke's "Au Large" and President E. B. Andrews's "Anything to leat Grant," outweigh the fletion. Er. C. D. the n's Blust at one will assonish even those who have followed his latest vagarios.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

From the coaching parade on Saturday, the 10th, to the wedding of Miss Tooker and Mr. Ritchie on the 17th, Newport's gayetles have moved on day after day and hour after hour is one steady, unbroken procession.

The coaches made a showing worthy of Hyde Park, and instead of only six being in line, at had been untruly predicted, there were twelve all perfect as to form and style, and crowned by the flower of Newport's smart set in matrons and maldens, Mr. Oliver H. P. Belmont had the handomest and best-bred team, but his brother August carried off the palm for feminine beauty on the ox seat, as Mrs. Belmont was quite stunningly handsome in pale blue chiffon, with hat and parasol to match. Colors were blended has nonlously, too, on this coach, Miss Shyl Shop, man being all yellow and white, and Miss Winthron, who sat beside her, wearing Pennadour shades of pink and blue. On a back seat of Mr. Van Alen's coach was Mrs. John J. Astor. the beauty of her day, par excellence, who, however, in spite of one of her neat and stylish costumes of black and white, was hardly so conenicuously handsome as usual.

Sunday was in a certain sense a day of rest but, after the old Puritan fashion, it was decreed o be over at sundown, and after innumerable dinner parties all the prettiest women and martest men in town invaded Mr. Winthrop Rutherford's cottage without warning. Sqr. price parties are, generally, unadulterated frauds, but on this occasion the astonished one did his part so well that his entertainers believed him and were elated with their success. Mr. Oliver Belmont's menagerie at Gray Crag

Park held its first reception on Monday and en ained its visitors right royally with hardboiled eggs and watermelon, chastened by a hampagne luncheon, served to perfection with every conceivable luxury. The sacred cows ardly distinguished themselves for saintliness of demeanor, and objected to the indignity of seing harnessed to Indian carriages and asked to drag about what they doubtless considered very cheap American visitors. Perhaps they imagined that their lines had fallen to them in adime museum. The Killigrew bird also was ather a disappointment, but as the race is said o be nearly extinct, it could hardly be expected that the last of it should struggle for a representation. The picnic was in no sense a disate spects, and toward the close was even quite ovial, which picnics so seldom are.

Mrs. Astor gave one of her big dinners on Monday, after which she and many of her guests attended the Casino dances. Mrs. Astor wore a diadem, stomacher, and necklace of in the ballroom, while Mrs. J. J. Astor looked extremely lovely in a pink and white brocade, with crescent of brilliants in her hair. Among the andsomest women were Mrs. Cass Canfield, in disphanous black with a profusion of diamonds, and Mrs. Carley Havemeyer, entirely in white.

Undoubtedly, Mrs. Belmont's violet domine party at the Golf Club was the newest, prettiest, and gayest dance of the season. Exquisite taste directed all the arrangements, and the garlands and sprays of pink, white, and yellow blossoms that adorned the ballroom took from the sombreness of the dancers' draperies and made it one of the prettiest sights ever seen in Newport. All the heads were powdered, and the dominoes were of the daintiest silk and chiffon and varied in tint from the bue of the fresh spring lilac to the deepest and richest royal purple; so the effect of light and shade as they passed and mingled in the dance was quite artistic.

Tableaux vivants are an institution that be longs to society's ancient history, and have been popular since the days of our grandmothers. They have the advantage of showing of beauty and costume, and of ministering to personal vanity without the slightest effort at brain work on the part of the performers. They have only to stand still and look pretty. The artist who poses the figures, arranges the properties, and regulates the light does all the rest The tableaux at Newport were beautiful, of course. Mrs. Sorchan and the Russian sleich was easily the most effective as a whole. Mr Henry Whitehouse's Henry III. costume was richer and more costly, probably, than any that monarch ever wore. Miss Blight's rich gelden hair and her superb carriage, combined with great gorgeousness of stuffs and jewels, made a striking Sultana, although, perhaps, she was rather youthful and dignified for the part. It would have suited better the maturity of Mrs. Van Rensselaer Cruger. Miss Edith Blight as Mme. Récamier, after David's picture, was a dream of beauty. From the crown of her graceful head to the tips of her naked feet she ras the perfection of artistic grace. Mrs. (ass Canfield, Miss Whitehouse, Miss Hoffman, Miss Catting, 4 represented Jordaens and his family, all con-

tributed largely to the success of the occasion. Southampton, too, has had tableaux, though they were called there by a prettier name. "As evening with the old masters" is better than either "tableaux" or "living pictures." The artists, Mr. Chase and Mr. Breese, directed the exhibition, and had an extremely pretty Mma. Récamier, just as was had in Newport, and an quarelle after Delort in the person of Mrs. H. W. McVickar, which Newport did not have.

At Bar Harbor, too, they have had something in the nature of artistic posings, which seem to have taken hold of the community with the same suddenness and tenacity as golf and bicycles. "A Village Fair" for charity has been one of the events of the season there, and as a kind of side show, with an extra charge for admittance, several ladies arranged a little exhibition of tableaux. At this Miss Alice Belknap of Washington appeared as Trilby, and, with her superb coloring and wealth of golden locks. presented a perfectly novel representation of hat rather worn-out heroine.

With so much going on at Newport, it is hardly possible to do justice to other places, and yet Bar Harbor looms up in the distance, a very striking settlement on the North Atlantic coast, and peopled during the summer months by a colony of distinguished and interesting people, although it has no "smart set." The entertainments here are more like Washington functions. with a flavor of military, naval, political, and diplomatic distinction that one finds at no other watering place. For instance, at the afternoon reception given to Governor and Mrs. Morton on board the flagship New York a salute of twenty guns was fired on their arrival, and the flag lowered from the mainmast, a small matter in naval etiquette, but suggestive of semething more important than cotillons and picnics

Bar Harbor is by no means in the background however, as regards beauty and smartness. The pretty girls there this summer have included Miss Isabel Carter of Philadelphia, the Misses Sturgts of the same place, the daughters of Gov. Morton, one of whom, however, has been the guest of Miss Gertrude Vanderbut during the Newport rush; Miss Bend, Miss Mildred Morris, Miss Whitney, Miss Stokes, and Miss Snelling. Daneing, golfing, and driving men have not been wanting. Mr. W. K. Vanderbill brought a goodly number on the Vallant, the squadron officers have given color and glitter to dinners and dances, even if they are not all as much at home on the dancing floor as on the decks of ships, and Mayroyeni bey has given dinners at the Malvern. Mr. Peter Marie smiled benignly at every gathering, although he is credited by newspaper correspondents as figure in the Prince of Wales's set at Homburg

Speaking of Mr. Marie reminds one of his friend and contemporary, Mr. William H. J. Graham, familiarly known to society for the last thirty years as "Willie" teratam, and passed over to the silent majority ten days and at Richfield Springs. Although hardly yet the evening of life, there are not handy prominently before the world who remember Mr. Graham when he was the welcome are all the big dinners and largely sought for at the first house parties that ever assembled in the neighborhood of New York. His gifts at a raconteur were unusual, and, without are ing the outside limit of scandal and a was a most agreeable parrator or family gends, the his and outs of social history and biography, with always a kindly would for those whom he had known at the summit of the social ladder, and whom adverse fortune had compelled to sit patiently at its foot-